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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

on the
Health of the Malling
District
for the year 1955

By the
Medical Officer of Health
DR. P. JACOB GAFFIKIN
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
H. C. COLDRICK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:

H. C. COLDRICK, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

E. L. ALLSOP, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

R. MARSDIN, M.S.I.A.

R. M. CRIPPS, M.S.I.A.

Cleansing Officer:

A. J. WELLER, M.I.T.A.

Clerks:

R. W. WELLARD.

F. P. GREEN.

(Cleansing Officer's Clerk)

A. J. GOSDEN.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health Committee:

This Committee meets quarterly according to notice.

When any special matters affecting a particular parish or parishes are under consideration, two representatives of the Parish Council(s) concerned are invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

County Health Area Sub-Committee:

The Council has three representatives on this Committee.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
West Malling, Kent.

5th September, 1956.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Malling.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report on the health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 3/1956 dated 12th April, 1956, on similar lines to that for 1954.

There was an outbreak of Measles during the year and 1,058 cases were notified, the largest number since the war. As far as I am aware the cases were of a mild type with no serious complications, only one case necessitating hospital treatment. Otherwise the health of the district continues to be good.

The Area Comparability Factors of 1.03 for births and 0.98 for deaths are supplied by the Registrar-General for the purpose of adjusting the birth and death rates to secure comparison with rates in other districts or those for England and Wales. These, when multiplied by the crude or unadjusted rates, allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

The death rate of 9.86 crude or 9.66 adjusted is lower than for the previous year which then was the lowest recorded for this district since the turn of the century.

Population: The Registrar-General's estimate of the Mid-Year Home Population of the district is 37,610, an increase of 480 over the 1954 figure. The excess of births over deaths for the year was 216, and so of the estimated increase of population 45% was due to natural increase and 55% to inward migration.

Vital Statistics: Heart Diseases, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer) and Respiratory Diseases remain the numerical chief causes of death. The death rate is the lowest ever recorded for the rural district and at 9.66 (adjusted) compares favourably with England and Wales at 11.70. Deaths of infants under one year of age totalled 6 and accounted for 1.61% of the total deaths, whilst deaths of persons aged 65 years and over accounted for 67.11% of the total.

The birth rate of 16·07 (adjusted) compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, which is 15·0. Of the total of 587 live births 27 were illegitimate, of which one was stillborn. The Infantile Mortality rate was 10·22, less than half that for the previous year, but this rate has shown a tendency to considerable fluctuation in the past few years. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age. There was one maternal death during the year, giving a rate of 1·67 per 1,000 live and still births.

Infectious and Notifiable Diseases: For the eighth successive year I am pleased to report that no case of Diphtheria was recorded. The number of children resident in the Maidstone area who were immunised against Diphtheria fell slightly during the year. I cannot stress too strongly that immunisation must be maintained at the highest possible level if Diphtheria is to continue to be a disease of the past. Diphtheria used to be common and oft-times fatal and we cannot afford to be apathetic in our efforts to achieve a 100% immunisation level.

As I have already mentioned, the figure of 1,058 cases of Measles is the highest since the war. The figure of Pneumonia, viz. 47, shows an increase over that for 1954, when the figure was 12. I consider this increase to be due to better notification by the general practitioners, for I have had occasion during the year to elucidate the position regarding notification under the Regulations to such practitioners. Otherwise notifications of diseases were on the whole less than for the previous year. Of the two cases of Poliomyelitis which occurred, one non-paralytic related to a girl aged 16 years and the other, a paralytic case, related to a baby girl aged 1 year 9 months. Happily, both cases recovered after hospital treatment. Now that vaccination against this disease has been initiated, I would urge all parents to take advantage of this new public health service, which, in my opinion, will do much to reduce the susceptibility of their children to this disease.

Laboratory Facilities: There has been no change in the arrangements during 1955 whereby the County Pathologist or County Analyst at County Hall, Maidstone, according to examination required, have carried out this work. These arrangements have again proved to be quite satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities : Nursing in the Home : Maternity and Child Welfare : Child Life Protection : School Health Services: The Kent County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of these services in this district.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47: It was not necessary to apply to the Court for any Orders for the removal of aged persons to institutions during the year. Only one such person living in insanitary conditions came to my notice, namely, an old lady. She was eventually removed informally in conjunction with the District Officer and her cottage was disinfested when vacated.

Mortuaries: The three mortuaries provided by the Council and situated at Aylesford, Borough Green and West Malling continued in use during the year. They are available at any time and the Police are provided with keys. There is a fourth mortuary at Snodland provided by the Parish Council.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936: No action was necessary under these Regulations during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	286	274	560
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	13	14	27
Total live births	...	...	...	...	299	288	587
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population					15.60 (crude)		
Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor of 1.03 supplied by the Registrar-General)					16.07 (adjusted)		

Still Births:							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	9	1	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total still births	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					18.4		

Deaths:							
Total deaths	...	...	...	...	211	160	371
Death rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population					9.86 (crude)		
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor of 0.98 supplied by the Registrar-General)					9.66 (adjusted)		

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion...	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	1.67

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

Number of deaths of infants under one year	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Rate — all infants per 1,000 live births					10.22		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					10.71		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					Nil		
Number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

Deaths from certain other diseases:

Malignant neoplasms (all ages)	...	43	27	70
Measles (all ages)	...	Nil		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil		
Diphtheria (all ages)	...	Nil		

Comparative table showing birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate.

	per 1,000 estimated mid-year Home Population				per 1,000 total live & still births	per 1,000 live births	
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age	
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate			
Malling R.D.	1951	15.53	15.53	12.08	11.36	13.91	31.75
	1952	16.73	16.75	10.87	10.22	15.85	30.60
	1953	15.64	16.11	11.04	10.82	20.37	29.46
	1954	16.05	16.54	9.96	9.76	21.82	21.82
	1955	15.50	16.07	9.86	9.66	18.40	10.22
England and Wales 1955 (Provisional)		15.00		11.70		23.10	24.90*

* Per 1,000 related live births.

Control Over Infectious and Other Disease.

The following table shows the number of cases in which bedding was steam disinfected and one or more rooms disinfected:—

Work Carried Out	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Cancer	Meningo- infection	Polio- myelitis	Miscel- laneous
Fumigation of Rooms and Disinfection of Bedding	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Fumigation of Rooms only	3	—	8	1	1	2	—
Disinfection of Bedding only	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

Food Poisoning.

The table given below is of food poisoning notifications which were received and investigated and returned to the Registrar-General:—

1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
—	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	3	4

Outbreaks due to identified agents:

Total cutbreaks 1. Total Cases 2.

(Salmonella Typhi Murium)

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:

Total Outbreaks: Nil. Total Cases: Nil.

Single Cases:

Agents identified ... 4 (Salmonella Typhi Murium)

Unknown Cause ... 1

Total Cases ... 5

All notified cases of food poisoning are fully investigated by officers of the department and samples of any suspected foods are submitted for examination. The cases were mostly individual ones and no large outbreaks were notified.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox. The Kent County Council is responsible for the provision in this district of facilities for immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and the following information has been received from the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott), concerning such during the year 1955.

	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—9	10—14	Total to	
								15 years	
No. of children resident in the Rural District of Malling who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1955. (i) Primary Inoculations (ii) Reinforcing Inoculations	32	296	33	11	13	36	3	424	
	—	—	—	1	16	363	184	564	
No. of children resident in the Rural District of Malling under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1941).	32	335	386	440	431	1932	714	4270	
No. of persons resident in the Rural District of Malling who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1955. (i) Number Vaccinated (ii) Number Re-Vaccinated.	193		155				7	13	368
	—		4				34	38	76
								15 or over	Total

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable Disease according to disease, sex and age groups.

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F				
Under 1	—	—	6	10	—	—	—	—	14	5	—	—
1—2	—	—	23	21	—	1	—	—	112	85	—	—
3—4	—	—	15	14	—	—	—	—	110	96	—	—
5—9	2	1	35	27	—	—	—	—	312	273	—	—
10—14	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	14	11	—	—
15—24	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	8	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	15	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	83	76	—	1	—	1	565	493	—	—
	4		159		1		1		1058		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-55	—	1	49	53	—	—	—	—	17	18	—	—
30-6-55	2	—	9	11	—	—	—	—	319	269	—	—
30-9-55	—	—	22	8	—	1	—	—	229	206	—	—
31-12-55	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post Infectious		M	F
							M	F	M	F		
Under 5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	22	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	47		—		—		—		—		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-55	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-6-55	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-9-55	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-12-55	9	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Para- Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Puerperal pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F	
Under 5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	1	2	1	1	3	4	—	—	—	1
	—		3		2		7		—		1	
Quarter ending												
31-3-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30-6-55	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
30-9-55	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
31-12-55	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Tuberculosis							
	Pulmonary		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other forms		Malaria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—14	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—24	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	6	5	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—64	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	12	—	—	2	3	—	—
	26		—		5			
Quarter ending								
31-3-55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-6-55	6	6	—	—	—	1	—	—
30-9-55	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
31-12-55	3	4	—	—	2	1	—	—

Tuberculosis.

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred:—

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases*				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—14	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—24	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—34	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
35—44	2	3	1	...	...	1	...	...
45—54	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	...
55—64	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Age Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	14	12	2	3	2	3	...	...
	26		5		5		...	
	31				5			
March Quarter	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
June Quarter	6	6	...	1	...	...	...	...
September Quarter	3	1	...	1	...	2	...	...
December Quarter	3	4	2	1	2	...	...	...

* Related to Primary Notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930 and 1952.

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis of persons who had not been notified as suffering from that disease ... 1 = 20%.

In the area which includes the Malling Rural District as well as the Borough and the Rural District of Maidstone and the Hollingbourn Rural District, the Centre for the diagnosis, treatment and after-care of cases of tuberculosis is situated at Foster Street, Maidstone.

Close co-operation between the Chest Clinic and the Health departments of the four Authorities has continued during the year, and Dr. David Pugh, the Chest Physician for the Mid-Kent area, has kindly supplied me with figures of the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis which were examined during the year and the number diagnosed as tuberculosis. These figures relate to area served by the Chest Clinic.

(a) Number of contacts, seen during 1955, of newly notified cases of Tuberculosis	... ..	352
(b) Number of contacts, seen during 1955, of cases notified prior to 1955	... ..	360
(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		6
(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		5

During 1955 there was no visit of the Mass Radiography Service Units to this area, the last such visit being in 1953, but a visit was arranged for the early months of 1956, when a larger number of Centres were available to the public than in the 1953 visit, and preliminary figures which are available indicate that this policy resulted in an increased attendance by the general public amounting to an increase over the 1953 figures of 5,099. Fuller details will be available later and the results of the 1956 survey included in the Report for that year.

The arrangements at the Chest Clinic for the tracing and following-up of contacts have continued to work satisfactorily, and in the after-care of tuberculosis patients and their dependents, the Maidstone and District Tuberculosis After-Care Committee has done much valuable work, and this body, with the more recent organisation, the "Friends of Foster Street," is deserving of the fullest support.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year with rates per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:—

R.G.'s list No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths			Rates per 1,000 Estimated Home Population	
		M	F	T	1955	1954
1	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	2	3	5	0.13	0.30
2	Tuberculosis—other	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
3	Syphilitic disease	...	1	1	0.03	0.05
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
6	Meningococcal Infections	1	1	2	0.05	0.00
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
8	Measles	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
9	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	...	1	1	0.03	0.00
10	Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	6	6	12	0.32	0.24
11	Malignant Neoplasm — lung, bronchus	12	1	13	0.35	0.38
12	Malignant Neoplasm—breast	...	2	2	0.05	0.08
13	Malignant Neoplasm—uterus	...	5	5	0.13	0.08
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	13	38	1.01	0.94
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	...	2	0.05	0.03
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	0.00	0.19
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	27	51	1.36	1.37
18	Coronary disease, angina	39	19	58	1.54	1.37
19	Hypertension with Heart disease	4	4	8	0.21	0.19
20	Other Heart disease	28	36	64	1.70	1.64
21	Other circulatory disease	8	4	12	0.32	0.30
22	Influenza	2	1	3	0.08	0.00
23	Pneumonia	8	4	12	0.32	0.48
24	Bronchitis	7	3	10	0.26	0.35
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3	0.08	0.11
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	...	3	0.08	0.08
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2	0.05	0.03
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4	0.11	0.13
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	...	4	0.11	0.11
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	1	1	0.03	0.00
31	Congenital malformations	2	...	2	0.05	0.22
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	14	20	34	0.91	0.65
33	Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5	0.13	0.21
34	All other accidents	7	3	10	0.26	0.32
35	Suicide	4	...	4	0.11	0.05
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
	All causes	211	160	371	9.86	9.96

DEATHS — ALL CAUSES — 1955.

Age Group	Quarter Ending								Total for the year	
	31.3.55		30.6.55		30.9.55		31.12.55			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 month	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
1— 2 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2— 3 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3— 6 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...
6—9 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9—12 "	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Total to one year	2	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	5	1
1— 4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5— 9 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—19 "	...	1	...	...	3	...	1	...	4	1
20—29 "	1	2	1	...	2	...	2	...	6	2
30—39 "	2	2	1	1	...	1	2	...	5	4
40—49 "	3	1	2	1	1	1	10	3	16	6
50—59 "	6	4	2	4	6	2	4	7	18	17
60—64 "	7	5	7	2	3	3	7	3	24	13
65—69 "	7	5	5	2	...	5	5	4	17	16
70—79 "	22	15	23	13	11	17	13	8	69	53
80—89 "	14	13	10	9	12	11	8	8	44	41
90 and over	...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	6
Totals	64	52	53	33	40	41	54	34	211	160
	116		86		81		88		371	

Deaths of infants under one year of age ... 1954 — 13 = 3.51%
 1955 — 6 = 1.62%
 Deaths of persons aged 65 years and over ... 1954 — 231 = 62.43%
 1955 — 249 = 67.11%

Details of the work carried out in connection with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Environmental Hygiene), Water Supply, Drainage, Supervision of Food Supplies and the Public Cleansing Service will be found in the following report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who, in conjunction with the Cleansing Officer, has reported separately on these matters, as in previous years.

In conclusion I would like to add my thanks to the Council for their continued support and interest during the year and to the Public Health Department for their loyal and enthusiastic assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
High Street,
West Malling, Kent.

5th September, 1956.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Malling.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my eighth Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances existing in the rural district for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The staff of the Department has remained unchanged during the year and this is most helpful in maintaining the continuity of the work. Special attention has been paid to the demolition of unfit houses and meat inspection this year, two important aspects of public health that have only recently been brought to the forefront by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act on the one hand and by the decontrol of meat on the other.

Already a good start has been made on the eradication of the district's unfit houses and will be continued with such speed as rehousing will allow. Already a major proportion of the Department's time is spent on this and other housing work, but it is not yet possible to institute a system of house-to-house inspection, although all complaints relating to housing are dealt with promptly. The routine inspections of all the various registered premises has proceeded satisfactorily.

One of the major problems to be coped with is that of dealing with cesspools, as you will read in the Cleansing Officer's comments in the report. The prevention of nuisance from overflowing cesspools is most difficult in some cases and takes up a lot of the Inspectors' time in endeavouring to find a solution. Indeed there is only one satisfactory solution and that is the provision of sewers in the unsewered areas, and in this connection it is hoped that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will permit the Aylesford and Ditton Scheme to proceed at a very early date.

A summary of the work carried out during the year follows, with comments on each subject.

HOUSING.

The preliminary survey of unfit houses in the district was completed during the year and a figure of 204 dwellings for demolition was forwarded to the Minister of Housing

and Local Government as the basis of the Council's demolition programme during the next five years, as required in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. As new building programmes were already proceeding in some parishes it has been possible to make an early start on demolition in those parishes. In fact a start was made even before the programme was forwarded to the Minister. During the year 19 demolition orders and 4 closing orders have been made, including one part closing order. In addition one house was closed informally. In 19 cases the displaced families were rehoused by the Council, whilst in 5 cases the houses were dealt with when vacant. An undertaking to make the cottage fit in lieu of demolition was accepted in one case.

14 cottages were actually demolished during the year, 2 of which were the subject of demolition orders made the previous year, 8 included in the demolition orders made in the year under review, and 4 by informal action.

The figure of 204 houses is an estimate and it will be necessary to vary it from time to time as inspection proceeds and more experience is gained. Actually at the end of 1955 the figure of 204 had been increased to 219. It does not necessarily mean that all of these cottages will be demolished, as it will be possible in some cases to accept "undertakings" from the owner to make the dwelling fit in all respects in lieu of demolition. In my opinion if a cottage can be made fit and an owner is prepared to make it so, he should be allowed to do so provided a unit of good accommodation is produced at economic cost.

The success of any programme for the demolition of unfit houses obviously depends on new houses being provided to rehouse the families displaced, and without the continued support of the Council in this respect the programme as submitted to the Minister cannot be completed successfully. In my opinion the eradication of unfit houses is a very worthwhile job and may be achieved by reconditioning with the aid of improvement grant or by demolition. There will always be a nucleus of cottages that are so inherently defective that demolition is the only expedient and it is this nucleus that new houses will be required for even after the present list has been attended to.

More persons are now taking advantage of improvement grants, 28 applications involving work to the value of £17,238 and grants of £7,619 being approved during 1955. These applications are dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor, and do much to preserve the life of existing rural cottages.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, received during the year numbered only 3. It is apparent that not many landlords are taking advantage of this Act to increase their rents.

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

1.	By the Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	96
2.	By others ...	...	...	...	...	74
						<hr/> 170

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review:—

W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
W.C.s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Washbasins provided/renewed/cleansed					...	...	...	...	54
Sinks	"	"	"		...	...	...	...	13
Water heaters provided		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Showers	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Urinals	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Gullies provided/repaired/renewed				...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspection chambers repaired/renewed					...	...	...	...	73
Drains laid/altered/repaired			...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Choked drains cleansed		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pail or earth closets converted			...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cesspools provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chimney stacks repaired/renewed				...	...	...	...	...	12
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
R.W. gutters and pipes repaired/renewed					...	...	...	...	26
External walls repaired		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	...				...	...	...	...	85
Floors and staircases repaired/renewed					...	...	...	...	40
Doors and windows repaired/renewed	...				...	...	...	...	74
Grates and ranges repaired/renewed	...				...	...	...	...	11
Coppers repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Dirty premises cleansed		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Fans, external and internal, provided	...				...	...	...	...	5
New hopper huts provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hopper huts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of Formal Notices served during 1955	...				...	...	...	...	18
Number of Informal Notices served during 1955	...				...	...	...	...	143
Number of complaints received during 1955	...				...	...	...	...	360

HOP AND FRUIT PICKERS' CAMPS.

Thirty-two hop-pickers' camps were occupied during the 1955 season by an estimated 6,500 persons. Four hop-picking machines were at work in your area last year and at these farms only a small number of pickers were housed. It is anticipated that further machines will be used during the forthcoming season and that hop-picking as we know it today will gradually become a thing of the past.

Fifty-two visits of inspection were made to hop camps to check on living conditions and sanitary environment. These visits do much to ensure compliance with the byelaws and generally speaking one finds the growers co-operative. At one farm six new huts were provided to replace six condemned, whilst at another 26 were thoroughly overhauled. General maintenance repairs were carried out to huts at most camps prior to the season opening.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Three public companies serve the rural district with mains water—the Mid-Kent Water Company, the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company, and the Maidstone Waterworks Company, the majority of the premises in the area being supplied by the Mid-Kent Water Company, whose offices are situated within the rural district at Snodland.

The number of private water supplies has been reduced to five, supplying in all 198 properties. Details of these supplies are tabulated below.

The Valuation List shows that there were 10,649 inhabited dwellings at the close of the year under review, and I am able to report that 10,491 or 98·42% of these receive a piped supply, whether it be from public or private mains.

Houses supplied by statutory water undertakings:

Mid-Kent Water Company	...	...	...	...	10,221
Maidstone Waterworks Company	...	...	...	...	55
Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company	...	...	...	...	17
					————— 10,293

Houses supplied by piped supply from private sources:

Tottington Spring Supply	...	...	...	...	43
British Quarrying Company Supply	...	...	...	...	6
Hamptons Private Supply	...	...	...	...	29
Fairlawne Private Supply	...	...	...	...	114
Yotes Court Private Supply	...	...	...	...	6
					————— 198
					————— 10,491

The above figures do not include the Air Ministry Personnel Houses at R.A.F. Station, West Malling, either with regard to the total houses in the district or the number having a piped supply of water, although all these houses are in fact provided with a mains supply.

With regard to the 1.58% of properties shown as being without a piped supply, I am arranging for a survey to be carried out as and when time permits, in an attempt to record all such properties and to endeavour where possible to secure their connection to mains. It is known that dwellings in certain parts of the district are situated too far from piped supplies to make their connection a practical possibility.

Samples: All supplies are subject to regular sampling and the following table indicates the results of samples taken during 1955. The Maidstone and Mid-Kent Water Companies sample their supplies regularly and submit the results to the Department.

Type of Water	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Water	36	23	13	2	2	...
Treated Water	16	16	...	1	1	...

Seven of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from the Hamptons private supply and in these cases contamination was only slight. Recommendation was made for the fitting of bacteriological filters to individual taps. Three other unsatisfactory samples were, two from the Tottington supply and one from a well in West Malling. Filters were fitted in these cases and have proved satisfactory. The three remaining samples were from shallow wells at two hop camps and an isolated cottage, and in these cases prior boiling was the only expedient.

Extension of Mains: 4,032 yards of mains were laid during the year, details of which are set out in the following table:—

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Aylesford	390	3 inches	Mid-Kent
Ightham	606	3 "	"
East Malling	750	4 "	"
Platt	119	3 "	"
East Peckham	248	3 "	"
Snodland	48	2 "	"
Snodland	278	3 "	"
Wouldham	114	3 "	"
Wrotham	1479	6 "	"

Delivery of Water: 5,600 gallons of water were delivered to cottages dependent on stored rainwater during the dry season. These cottages are situated in remote positions in the parishes of Birling and West Peckham. It is not possible to lay public mains into these areas because of the prohibitive cost and so it will always be necessary for the Council to assist in carrying water during prolonged dry spells. This work is carried out after normal working hours, the water being transported in a 400-gallon tank placed on your "Thames" truck.

METEOROLOGY.

The following data concerning meteorology for the year 1955 (with comparative figures for the four previous years) recorded at East Malling Research Station, has been supplied by the Meteorological Officer of that station:—

Month	Average Thermometer (Max.)	Average Thermometer (Min.)	Highest Thermometer	Lowest Thermometer	Average Barometer	Total Rainfall (ins.)	Heaviest Rainfall in any one day.	Number of days on which rain fell	35 years average*	Total hours of sunshine
January	41.5	30.9	54	16	29.74	3.45	0.96	19	1.96	29.2
February	40.6	31.3	53	19	29.59	1.80	0.38	17	1.85	83.5
March	44.5	31.2	61	21	29.98	1.11	0.34	11	2.01	136.8
April	58.4	39.2	73	27	30.14	0.20	0.14	3	1.65	179.8
May	58.2	42.0	66	31	29.87	3.73	0.69	19	1.67	224.8
June	56.6	49.8	74	34	29.94	1.91	0.48	14	2.04	179.7
July	72.4	53.5	84	45	30.06	1.79	1.68	6	2.19	227.3
August	73.7	53.5	85	40	30.04	0.98	0.21	8	2.19	199.9
September	66.7	47.5	76	37	29.98	2.50	1.47	12	1.98	160.4
October	56.5	39.0	67	26	29.61	4.63	2.23	10	3.11	122.9
November	50.7	38.8	61	21	30.04	1.02	0.25	12	2.79	41.0
December	48.7	36.0	56	24	29.75	2.12	0.52	20	2.66	47.0
Total/Average for the year					29.89	25.24	2.23	151	26.10	1632.3
Total/Average for the year					1951	35.81	1.45	194	26.10	
" " "					1952	26.43	1.13	183	26.10	
" " "					1953	20.94	0.91	140	26.10	
" " "					1954	26.10	1.08	175	26.10	
" " "					1955	25.24	2.23	151	26.10	

* Weighted averages for the 35-year period 1881-1915.

Summary: It will be seen from the above table that the total rainfall for the year was 25.24 inches, .86 inch below the average for the area.

Sunshine: Only January, June and November had sunshine below average.

Driest Period: The driest period during the year was from April 8th to 30th inclusive, including trace. Total: 23 days.

The driest period excluding a trace was from April 11th to 22nd inclusive. Total: 12 days.

Wettest Period: The wettest period during the year was from May 6th to 22nd, including trace. Total: 17 days.

The wettest period excluding a trace was from February 2nd to 9th inclusive. Total: 8 days.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises: The following table indicates the approximate number of the various types of Food Premises which are recorded in the Department for inspection purposes:

Cafés and Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Fishmongers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers' and General Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

During the year under review 384 routine inspections were made to the above-mentioned food premises. Constant routine inspections are carried out by the District Sanitary Inspectors in an endeavour to ensure that clean food is sold to the public. It would be a mistake to say that all food premises are satisfactory in all respects, and even the better food shops need reminding of some small matters at times. Opportunity is taken to educate food handlers into methods of good practice, and generally speaking co-operation is obtained. Advice is given where necessary on up-to-date methods of food preparation and storage, and most traders are amenable to suggestions put forward by the Inspectors. A number of minor defects noted from time to time have been remedied without recourse to formal action.

Particular attention was paid to those food shops on the trunk road A.20 during the summer season where large numbers of daily trippers to the coast foregather.

The new Food and Drugs Act, 1955, received the royal assent in November 1955 and comes into force on the 1st January, 1956. Regulations made under this Act will strengthen still further the powers given to safeguard the public's food supplies.

Slaughterhouses: Of the 7 slaughterhouses licensed within your district only 5 were used regularly during the year. One of these is a private slaughterhouse used at Preston Hall Hospital for the slaughter of pigs for consumption in the Hospital only. During this time 1,607 animals have been slaughtered and I am pleased to report that 100% inspection has been effected, but only at the expense of many hours of overtime worked by the District Inspectors, and in my opinion this is money well spent. All meat condemned is stained with a green dye at the slaughterhouse in an effort to prevent its misuse, and arrangements are in operation whereby a Glue Company collects all condemned meat for processing.

The number of carcasses inspected and the amounts condemned during 1955 are as follows:—

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number Killed Number Inspected }	194	257	78	26	1607	2162
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcasses con- demned.	—	—	—	1	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	31	90	—	4	50	175
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	16%	35%	—	19.2%	3.1%	8.1%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses con- demned.	3	1	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	12	47	—	—	16	75
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis.	7.7%	18.6%	—	—	1%	3.6%

Approximate weight condemned: 2 tons 14 cwts. 2 qtrs. 16 lbs.

Two of the licensed slaughterhouses are approved as Ordinary Deadweight Certification Centres for pigs. A total of 393 pigs were certified on behalf of the Ministry of Food during the year.

Milk Supplies: There are 12 dairies on the Register for the Rural District. At the year's end the total of registered "distributors" was 69; this showed an increase of 2 compared with 1954. Conditions generally are satisfactory. 105 routine inspections were carried out.

The undermentioned licences to use special designations were granted during the year:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers' Licences	15	17	46
Supplementary Licences	7	8	2
Totals	22	25	48

The majority of “dealers” within the district sell designated milk in the sealed bottles in which it is received from licensed processors, but two persons, one at Borough Green and another in Platt, bottle “Tuberculin Tested” milk obtained from local farmers.

Regular sampling of all milk supplies continued and the standard remained high. A total of 75 samples was taken from dealers within the area and, of these, two only (2.6%) proved upon examination to be unsatisfactory. The percentages of unsatisfactory samples for the past five years are as follows: 1951—7.5%, 1952—7.6%, 1953—5.2%, 1954—2.5%, 1955—2.6%.

The two unsatisfactory samples were of milk produced in this rural area and were referred to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for action at the farm. As a result, repeat samples proved satisfactory.

The following table gives details of designated samples taken during 1955:—

Grade	Number of samples taken	Number which satisfied the prescribed test	Number which did not satisfy the prescribed test
Tuberculin Tested	19	17	2
Pasteurised	22	22	—
Sterilised	34	34	—

Seven biological samples of raw milk were submitted for examination by the County Pathological Laboratories and I am pleased to be able to report that all proved negative for the presence of tuberculosis. These samples are taken in cases where milk is sold raw and also from the remainder of the herd where bovine cattle are slaughtered and found to be affected with tuberculosis.

Voluntary Surrender of Foodstuffs. The following quantity of foodstuffs was surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Article	Weight				
	Tons	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned and Bottled Fruits	1	7	1	0	6
Tinned Vegetables			1	2	5½
Tinned Fish					13½
Wet Fish			3	0	0
Tinned Meat			2	25	8
Butchers' Meat	2	17	0	6	6*
Jam				1	8
Tinned Soups				3	3
Fish Paste					6½
Bacon				4	7
Sausages				27	0
Total	4	6	1	15	15

In addition to the weights shown above the equivalent of 26¾ pints of condensed and evaporated milk was also surrendered as unfit.

* Of this total weight 2 tons 14 cwts. 2 qtrs. 16 lbs. was surrendered at private slaughterhouses during meat inspection immediately after slaughter.

All unfit tinned food is disposed of, under supervision, at the Council's refuse tip. Butchers' meat is collected by a Glue Company as previously explained.

Sampling by County Sampling Officers. The following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Rural District of Malling during the year ended 31st December, 1955, and submitted to the Public Analyst, have been furnished by the Chief Inspector (Mr. S. Strugnell) of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, who are the responsible authority for this purpose in the district.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Bismuthated Magnesia Tablets	1	B/fd.	34
Bourn-Vita	1	Lentils	1
Bread and Butter	2	Margarine	1
Bronchial Pastilles	1	Milk	44
Butter	1	Milk Powder	1
Butter Maid Rolls	1	Mincemeat	1
Buttered Macaroons	1	Mushroom Ketchup	1
Cake and Pudding Mixture...	1	Orange Curd	1
Cheese	1	Orange Squash	1
Choc Covered Swiss Rolls ...	1	Piccalilli	1
Chocolate Covered Rolls ...	1	Pickle	1
Chocolate Mints	1	Pork Chipolata Sausages ...	1
Chocolate Rolls	1	Pure Almond Marzipan ...	1
Cocoa	2	Pure Ground Coffee	1
Compound Tablets of Codeine	1	Pure Vitamin Rich Cod Liver	
Cough Linctus	1	Oil Capsules	1
Cough Pastilles	1	Real Minced Pork in Stock...	1
Cream	1	Rum and Butter Sweets ...	1
Cream Biscuits	1	Shredded Beef Suet	1
Demerara Sugar	1	Skim Dried Milk	1
Devon Cream Toffee	1	Sponge Cakes Prepared with	
Double Cream	1	Fresh Eggs	1
Essence of Coffee	1	Sponge Mix	1
Fruit Flavours with Vitamin C	1	Strawberries in Syrup ...	1
Full Jersey Cream	1	Tea	2
Glucose Tablets	1	Ten Hour Cold Capsules ...	1
Glycerine B. P.	1	Vinegar	1
Ground Almonds	1	Wafer Biscuit Cream Filled...	1
Ground Rice	1	Whipped Cream Snowball ...	1
Ice Cream	2	Whisky	5
Lemon Squash	1		
		Total ...	109
C/fd ...	34		

SUMMARY

Milks	44
Drugs	10
Spirits	5
Other Samples	50
	109

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample of	Analysis	Remarks
Lentils	130 mites per pound.	Stock withdrawn from sale.
T.T. Attested Channel Islands Milk.	Fat 3.75%, Solids not fat 9.35%. Deficient 6.25% minimum amount of fat.	Follow-up sample contained 3.9% fat.
Devon Cream Toffee.	Fat 17.9% (including 2.3% butter). Should contain not less than 4% butter fat.	Use of the word 'cream' to be discontinued.

Sample of	Analysis	Remarks
Rum and Butter Sweets.	Fat 2·7% (including 2·2% butter fat). Should be not less than 4% butter fat.	Ingredients altered. Follow-up sample contained 4·5% butter fat.

Ice Cream: There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the district. At the year's end 97 premises were registered for storage and sale, and in each case the ice cream was received from approved sources. 59 samples were taken, embracing 6 different brands. The results of the samples were satisfactory. In addition, 3 samples of iced lollies proved satisfactory. The standard of cleanliness at registered premises remains high and every effort is taken to ensure that newly registered premises comply in all respects with the standard required in the Food and Drugs Act.

The following table shows the position with regard to ice cream over the past six years:—

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Premises Registered for storage and sale	58	81	94	89	95	97
Results Grade 1	7 (20%)	23 (65·7%)	59 (72·8%)	41 (74·6%)	50 (92·6%)	42 (71·4%)
Grade 2	15 (42·9%)	8 (22·9%)	14 (17·3%)	13 (22·6%)	4 (7·4%)	16 (27·2%)
Grade 3	8 (22·8%)	4 (11·4%)	6 (7·4%)	1 (1·8%)	—	1 (1·7%)
Grade 4	5 (14·3%)	—	2 (2·5%)	—	—	—
Total Samples ...	35	35	81	55	54	59

The figures in this table include repeat samples taken in cases where primary samples proved to be below the required standard.

RODENT CONTROL.

This section of the department's work is carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and the various Regulations. Reports on all aspects of the work are required from time to time by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as this Ministry contributes 50% of the net cost of all work in connection with sewers and private dwelling-houses.

The Ministry laid special stress during the year on the necessity for a high standard of survey work in order to ensure that the rat population of the country should be kept within controlable limits and still further reduced. I am pleased to be able to report that in your district very satisfactory results are being obtained. It was again evident that more people are getting to know of the service provided by the Council and notifying the department of infestations in their early stages before they reach major proportions. A really large infestation is now seldom reported, but this was not so a very few years ago. I feel that this position has only been reached through thorough and widespread treatments and that continued work to still further reduce the rat population is most essential.

Regular visits are made by the Rodent Operator to the Council's refuse disposal tips, cesspool emptier tips and sewage works to ensure that they are maintained free from rats and mice and other pests.

The following tables summarise treatments both as regards surface and sewers:—

Surface.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. Business Premises)	Total
Total number of Properties in Local Authority's area.	17	10230	165*	1036	11448
Number of Properties inspected as result of notification.	—	95	5	34	134
Number of Properties inspected as result of survey or otherwise.†	17	80	92	3	192
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority during 1955. (Completed treatments only).	Rats 12	154	5	23	194
	Mice —	22	—	14	26
Number of "block control" treatments carried out.	34 involving 97 individual premises.				

* This figure represents those farms and agricultural holdings so far visited and recorded by the Department.

† Specific rodent control visits. Not including those visits where the primary reason was other than rodent control.

In addition 24 retreatments were carried out during the year, at properties included in the above figures. This shows a reduction of 36 retreatments compared with the 1954 figure.

Sewers.

Parish	Number of Manholes	Number Pre-baited		Number of Pre-bait takes		Number poison baited		Number of poison bait takes	
		May	Nov.	May	Nov.	May	Nov.	May	Nov.
West Malling	71	15	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Snodland	87	31	37	18	6	13	8	12	8
Total	158	46	47	18	6	12	8	12	8

Warfarin is now used for all surface treatments and experiments were made during 1955 to establish the efficiency of this poison when used in sewers. Very good results were obtained and the poison was used in the Snodland sewers at regular intervals during the year. Zinc Phosphide and Asenious Oxide are still used for the six-monthly sewer treatments required to rank for grant by the Ministry.

Maintenance treatment of sewers was necessary only in the parishes of West Malling and Snodland, and tests showed the West Malling sewers to be clear of rats at the year's end. The position in Snodland is not yet satisfactory but the rat population is continuing to fall with each successive treatment.

One agreement has been made between the Council and the Management of a factory for the regular inspection and treatment of their premises at an annual charge. This has worked most satisfactorily.

PEST CONTROL.

During the year the following work of eradication of pests was carried out:

Flies 4, Fleas 12, Spiders 1, Beetles 6,
Bugs 5, Bats 1, Ants 1.

This work is carried out by the Rodent Operator using liquid insecticide or smoke generators containing residual D.D.T.

From time to time requests are received for assistance in connection with severe infestations of flies, mainly in roof spaces. These infestations have usually been caused by the Cluster Fly (*Pollenia rudis*).

An interesting case arose during 1955 when a complaint was received of rats or mice in the roof space of a house and normal baiting was commenced. No takes were obtained but nuisance from noises etc. continued. Large quantities of droppings were present in the roof space, and as these were not of a type normally associated with rats or mice, specimens were submitted to the Maidstone Museum. Mouse traps were set in the roof space but were left untouched.

After investigations the Museum reported that the trouble was probably caused by the Serotine bat, a comparatively rare visitor to Kent with very local distribution. Where roosts do exist in this country they are almost always in houses. A number of large bats subsequently escaped when a local builder was carrying out repairs to the roof, since which no further trouble has been experienced.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The control of the Council's sewers and sewage disposal works was handed over to the Engineer and Surveyor on the 1st January, 1955.

The detailed plans of the Aylesford and Ditton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year and permission received to advertise for tenders. These tenders are expected in June 1956, and despite the Government's restriction on capital expenditure it is hoped that an early starting date for proceeding with the scheme will be awarded, for this will do much to ease the position regarding cesspool emptying which is the Department's most difficult problem at present.

During the year 13 pail closets were converted to water closets, making a total of 199 such conversions during the past seven years. Despite the fact that these conversions can only be enforced when a public sewer is available to the property, I do everything to foster such conversions informally and all 13 of this year's conversions drain to cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The following résumé of the work of the Cleansing Department during the year has been supplied by the Cleansing Officer, Mr. A. J. Weller.

By way of introduction to the main details of the work, the following points stand out as worthy of special mention:—

1. The continued increase in the number of houses erected. In the year under review, 96 were erected by the Council and 74 by private enterprise, making a total of 170.

In addition to the extra refuse collection necessitated by these new houses, 340 more bins are now collected from the Married Quarters at the R.A.F. Station, West Malling.

2. No relief has been experienced with regard to Cesspool Emptying, 144 cesspools having been added to the number requiring attention, the total number now being 2,201.
3. Labour continues to be a problem. The manpower necessary to maintain an efficient service for the collection and disposal of refuse is most difficult to obtain in this district and, unlike modern industry, it is not possible to overcome the problem by resort to mechanical aids. All men employed on Cesspool Emptiers are willing to work overtime but the majority of the Refuse Collectors do not wish to work after normal working hours.

Manpower.

Thirty-five persons are employed on the outside staff of the Department and are as follows:—

- 1 Foreman
- 1 Motor Mechanic
- 1 Depot Labourer to assist Mechanic
- 2 Refuse Disposal
- 16 Refuse Collection
- 12 Cesspool Emptying and Night Soil
- 1 Woman Salvage Sorting and Baling
- 1 Rodent Operator

Of the 16 men employed on refuse collection, 6 are Drivers and 10 are Loaders. During the year, four of the Loaders left and four replacements were engaged.

The loss of time through sickness continues to increase; 270 days were lost in 1954 and 315 days in 1955. To this must be added a period of 70 weeks for the men's annual holiday.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

During the year covered by this report 170 new houses were added to the collection service. Bins are placed near to the highway for collection, exception being made for aged and infirm people. The physical exertion required to carry heavy bins has caused many residents to produce Doctors' Certificates of inability, 78 such requests being received during 1955.

Disposal of refuse continued for the first three months of the year at a small quarry at Leybourne. This land is now under cultivation.

Following the completion of the Leybourne site, tipping was resumed at the Ham Hill Brook-land site. The refuse is covered with ash and finished off with soil as and when available.

The Muledozer, which is five years old, continues to give satisfactory service by levelling and consolidating the refuse. This improved compaction helps to prevent infestation. Periodical inspections and treatments are made by the Council's Rodent Operator to maintain the tip free from vermin.

The following table shows the amount of materials dealt with by the Council's vehicles during the past five years:—

Year	Refuse Tons.	Hardcore & Covering Tons.	Drainage Tons.	Salvage Tons.	Misc. Tons.	Total Tons.
1951	7607	1924½	627½	150	805	11114½
1952	7999	1868	523	175½	745½	11311½
1953	8442½	1541½	648½	210½	325	11168
1954	8548	1655	1008½	279	164½	11655
1955	9010	1624	713	397	249	11993

In addition to the 11,993 tons above, a further 936 tons a year is dealt with for disposal on the tip from the R.A.F. Station, West Malling, and from Leybourne Grange Mental Colony.

Salvage.

With the constant increase in the cost of labour and vehicles, Salvage continues to be a useful source of revenue. Wastepaper is, of course, the most remunerative, and the amount collected during the year — 244 tons — was 59 tons higher than the previous year.

Upon the installation of a Power Baler in March it was possible to dispense with one of the two women previously employed.

The contract with Thames Board Mills, who take all our wastepaper collection, which expired in October 1955, has been renewed for a further five years.

As will be seen from the following table the total income from the sale of all Salvage was £2,352 11s. 7d. After allowing for all expenses, wages, bonus, etc., which amounted to £1,007 9s. 9d., the excess of receipts over expenditure amounted to £1,345 1s. 10d.

Year	Wastepaper etc.						Metal, Tins, Rags.						Cullett					
	Weight			Value			Weight			Value			Weight			Value		
	T.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.	T.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.	T.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
1951	141	5	3	2184	19	3	8	15	3	227	16	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	134	18	3	1410	12	9	36	1	0	356	14	0	3	13	0	3	13	0
1953	167	1	0	1202	6	1	33	2	3	244	1	9	4	0	0	4	0	0
1954	185	12	3	1399	14	1	14	3	1	190	17	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	244	7	0	2094	8	11	13	6	3	247	19	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Year	Miscellaneous						TOTAL											
							Weight						Value					
							T. c. q.						£ s. d.					
1951	—						150 1 2						2412 15 9					
1952	574 doz. Botts.						174 12 3						1794 2 6					
1953	—						204 3 3						1450 7 10					
1954	Tyres, etc.						200 17 1						1601 13 5					
1955	Tyres, etc.						259 3 3						2352 11 7					

Cesspool Emptying and Disposal.

As each year passes, the demand for the Cesspool Emptying Service increases both in the number of cesspools to be emptied and the frequency with which they require attention.

For economic reasons the order for a new Cesspool Emptier, placed at the beginning of the year under review, had to be cancelled, with the result that, in addition to constant overtime, it was necessary to hire an emptier for a short period in an endeavour to satisfy the demands for the service.

Permanent tips are situated at Comp Woods, Offham; Addington Park; Kings Hill Farm, Platt; Foxy Bank, Ryarsh; Burham Farm, Blue Bell Hill; and at Hollands Farm, Stansted. In addition, cesspool contents are disposed of at the West Malling, Ditton and Eccles Disposal Works.

Every effort is made to obtain disposal points as close to the work as possible. Few farmers will take cesspool contents except in very dry weather, and even some of these tips have had to be discontinued periodically because of complaints from nearby residents.

The following table shows how each year more work has to be done, 897 more loads being removed in 1955 than in the previous year. The total of 16,203 loads removed represents the colossal amount of 12,962,400 gallons to be disposed of.

Year	Loads Removed				
	Cesspools	Flushing	Sludge, etc.	Pails	Total
1951	11084	211	345	168 [25295 pls.]	11808
1952	11705	396	397	177 [26528 pls.]	12675
1953	13543	255	473	168 [25133 pls.]	14439
1954	14370	278	498	170 [25672 pls.]	15316
1955	15367	246	434	158 [23662 pls.]	16203

Garages, Vehicles and Maintenance.

Of the Council's 17 vehicles the Muledozer is kept at the Refuse Tip, the remaining 16 being garaged at East Malling.

These are as follows:—

- 6 Refuse Collectors
- 6 Cesspool Emptiers
- 1 Two-ton Truck
- 2 Vans
- 1 Maintenance Lorry used by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department

Repairs are carried out very efficiently by your Mechanic and very little time is lost through breakdowns on the road. A certain amount of painting is also done as and when time permits.

Because of the surface of the refuse tip and of other rough roads the machines have to traverse, a close watch has to be maintained on the tyres.

With the 16 vehicles operated by the Council 92 tyres are in constant use. Ten new tyres were purchased during the year and 33 were re-soled.

The following table gives some indication of the saving effected by re-soling:—

Year	No. of Covers Treated	Cost of New Tyres			Cost of Treatment			Saving *		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1953	24	339	5	0	178	12	0	160	13	0
1954	41	652	15	0	295	2	0	357	13	0
1955	33	613	15	0	287	10	0	326	5	0

* A “ Commercial Users ” discount scheme is in operation, 5% in 1953 and 1954 and 7½% in 1955, therefore the full saving is as follows:—

	1953			1954			1955		
Full Retail Saving	160	13	0	357	13	0	326	5	0
Plus 'C U' Discount	8	0	0	17	17	0	24	9	4
Full Saving	168	13	0	375	10	0	350	14	4

Mortuaries.

No major work was carried out at any of the three Mortuaries situated at West Malling, Aylesford and Borough Green.

The number of bodies dealt with during the year was as follows:—

West Malling	...	...	...	...	...	25
Aylesford	...	...	...	...	...	4
Borough Green	...	...	...	...	...	4

FACTORIES.

The following tables show the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found:—

1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	4	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	162	88	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	1	—	—
TOTALS	174	90	5	—

* Electrical Stations, Institutions and works of engineering construction and sites of building operations.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	5	—	—	—

Outworkers: There are now five outworkers in the district, an increase of one over the 1954 figure. Two of these outworkers live at one address and are engaged in the making of braids and trimmings, two work for the Royal Marines Clothing Centre at Chatham in the making and preparation of uniforms, and one other does knitting for a Manchester firm. The premises are regularly visited to ensure that the working conditions are satisfactory.

I am pleased to be able to report that no cases of infectious disease at outworkers' premises were notified during the year.

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year 487 visits were made to shops in the rural district. The administration of the Shops Act is combined with other work involving shops, e.g. visits made under the Food and Drugs Act.

On the 5th April, 1955, the Kent County Council delegated further powers to the Council and it is now necessary for me to deal with, inter alia, the hours of employment of young persons in shops. In one instance during the year it appeared that a certain young person had been working excessive hours in a café but the evidence proved too conflicting to warrant legal proceedings. Steps have been taken to prevent a similar happening in the future.

It was not necessary to institute any legal proceedings during the year and in one case only was it necessary to issue a written warning; this referred to the closing of a shop in the parish of Wrotham for the sale of prohibited goods on the weekly half-holiday.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The two privately owned Swimming Pools situated on the trunk road A.20 were open to the public during the year. One of these is used regularly by schools in the vicinity.

22 samples of the water in the pools were taken during the year, 14 being submitted for bacteriological examination and 8 for chemical analysis. Of these, 3 bacteriological and 2 chemical samples, all taken from one pool, were unsatisfactory. The proprietor was interviewed and a careful check made on the operation of the treatment plant. As a result it was suggested that a larger filter was necessary and at the year's end the work necessary was in hand. At this particular pool the proprietor wished to use water from an adjacent stream for the washing of the bath. Samples taken from the stream proved it to be polluted and so the project was abandoned.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

At the year's end there were 12 licensed sites within the rural district housing 31 caravans. Of these, 24 caravans occupy five sites and the seven remaining ones are on individual sites; three of these being temporary licences granted to persons living in caravans on building sites for the period of erection of dwelling-houses.

One application to establish a caravan site for 10 moveable dwellings in the parish of Wrotham, made under the Town and Country Planning Act, was granted, on appeal to the Minister, for summer use only. The applicant has not yet complied with the Public Health conditions of licence but is in the process of so doing and will be granted a licence on completing the work satisfactorily.

One application for a licence was refused during the year and this referred to an extension of an existing site at Quarry Woods, Aylesford, for a converted bus.

115 visits of inspection were made to sites during the year to ensure compliance with the conditions of licence and to check on unlicensed caravans that keep appearing in the district. As a result of informal action three caravans were removed from unlicensed sites.

The position enumerated above shows little change from last year but it is necessary to check constantly on the use of unlicensed land for the stationing of moveable dwellings. Oft-times conditions on such sites are bad and if early action is not taken it is more difficult to enforce removal. A check is made on all such sites that come to my notice but with a large rural area such as this it is not possible to know them all.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

During the year 7,296 inspections were carried out in connection with work of the Department, comprised as follows:—

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of visits to	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	23
„	Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	79
„	Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	113
„	Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	Fishmongers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
„	Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	51
„	Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	9
„	Public-houses	...	...	...	...	...	29
„	Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	1
„	Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	35
„	<i>re</i> Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	517
„	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	2
„	Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	105
„	to Premises <i>re</i> application for registration of premises for the sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	Samples of Milk collected (including biological)	...	...	...	...	...	82
„	Ice-cream collected	...	...	...	...	...	62
„	Food condensation	...	...	...	...	...	29
„	Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	24
„	<i>re</i> Slaughtermen's Licences	...	...	...	...	...	5

ENVIRONMENTAL, HYGIENE AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of visits to	Factories	...	...	...	...	...	90
"	"	Aged persons	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	Premises <i>re</i> rat and/or mice infestation (including 2,295 by Rodent Operator)	...	...	...	...	2,550
"	"	Premises <i>re</i> pests and/or vermin (other than rats or mice)	...	...	...	...	68
"		Disinfections carried out after infectious and notifiable diseases	...	...	...	...	19
"		visits to premises <i>re</i> notifiable and infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	31
"		Inspections of Refuse Accumulations and/or Manure Heaps	...	...	...	...	54
"	"	<i>re</i> Housing Repairs and Rents Act	...	...	...	...	824
"	"	carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts: First Visits	...	...	...	...	202
		Revisits	...	...	...	...	649
"		Housing Inspections in connection with rehousing	...	...	...	...	26
"		visits <i>re</i> sewerage and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	52
"	"	cesspools and/or septic tanks, drains, etc.	...	...	...	...	509
"		rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and/or watercourses etc. inspected	...	...	...	...	22
"		visits to Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	15
"		samples of Swimming Bath water collected	...	...	...	...	24
"		visits <i>re</i> drinking water	...	...	...	...	50
"		samples of drinking water	...	...	...	...	55
"		visits to Places of Public Assembly	...	...	...	...	14
"	"	Hop-pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	52
"	"	<i>re</i> Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	115
"	"	Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...	225
"	"	Flooding	...	...	...	...	2
"	"	Land Charges	...	...	...	...	23
"	"	Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	36
"	"	Domestic Animals (Nuisance)	...	...	...	...	4
"	"	Pet Animal Acts	...	...	...	...	2
"	"	Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	3
"	"	Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	274
"	"	Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	106

To conclude this report I would take this opportunity of placing on record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continued support during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. COLDRICK,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Tonbridge Press Press Ltd.
129 High Street, Tonbridge

Parish.	Number of houses according to Valuation List— December 1955.	Area (acres)	Population (estimated)
Addington	165	1,119	515
Aylesford	1,229	4,013	4,667 07
Birling	243	1,801	810
Borough Green ...	623	480	1,715 38
Burham	520	1,632	1,839
Ditton	579	1,066	1,769
Ightham	476	2,278	1,472
Leybourne	168	755	1,703
East Malling ...	1,114	2,787	3,383
West Malling ...	756	1,379	3,477
Mereworth	199	2,556	1,044 01
Offham	204	1,479	699
East Peckham ...	607	3,337	1,919
West Peckham ...	101	1,582	374
Platt	333	1,827	1,101
Plaxtol	331	2,406	1,026
Ryarsh	241	1,375	762
Shipbourne	154	2,007	458
Snodland	1,226	1,958	4,270
Stansted	160	1,974	555
Trottiscliffe ...	146	1,155	403
Wateringbury ...	378	1,377	1,164
Wouldham	251	1,855	907
Wrotham	445	3,457	1,658
Totals	10,649	45,655	37,610

SUMMARY.

Area of District (in acres)	45,655
Registrar-General's estimate of Mid-Year Home Population	37,610
Average density of persons per acre	0.81
Number of inhabited dwellings (end 1955) according to Valuation List	10,649
Average density of dwellings 1 per 4.287 acres	
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	3.531
Rateable Value (as at 1/4/55)	£235,907
Sum represented by a penny rate (1954-5)	£955

